



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 2
290 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

APR - 2 2012

The Honorable Bill Pascrell, Jr.
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Pascrell:

Thank you for your February 27, 2012 letter regarding the discovery of high levels of contamination in the mud flat along the Passaic River adjacent to Riverside County Park in Lyndhurst, New Jersey. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is very focused on the health of the communities along the Passaic River and the need for a clean river.

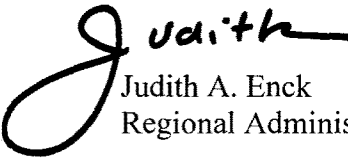
At the request of the EPA, the entities responsible for the contamination conducted an extensive investigation of the mud flat at river mile 10.9 of the Passaic River during the fall of 2011. The results, which were validated in February 2012, revealed high levels of contamination in the surface sediment, warranting further action. The EPA subsequently collected surface soil samples in Riverside Park to determine whether it has been impacted by the contamination in the adjacent mud flat during floods. The test results showed that concentrations of contaminants in the soil do not pose a concern for people using the park. The EPA has determined that no further action related to Riverside Park is needed.

The EPA is considering taking an interim action to isolate the mud flat through a combination of sediment removal and capping to reduce exposure to waders and boaters and prevent the migration of contaminants downstream. The amount of sediment that will need to be removed will be determined by the design of the cap. The EPA's current estimate is between 15,000 to 20,000 cubic yards. The agency is currently working on an Administrative Order on Consent that would have the responsible parties to conduct this work. The work will begin by the end of 2012.

This interim action will not be the final remedy for contamination in this area. There is currently in process a full investigation of the 17-mile stretch of the river from Newark Bay to Dundee Dam, which includes the river mile 10.9 mud flat. The final remedy for river mile 10.9 will be based on the findings of that investigation.

The EPA is fully committed to keeping you and everyone who lives and works along the Passaic River informed throughout the investigation and cleanup of the river. If you have further questions, please contact me at (212) 637-5000, or your staff may contact Todd D. Calongne, Branch Chief for Intergovernmental and Community Affairs, at (212) 637-3657.

Sincerely,


Judith A. Enck
Regional Administrator